

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

DATE: October 25, 2007

CALLED TO ORDER: 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNED: 5:38 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

ATTENDING MEMBERS

Lonnell Conley, Chairman
André Carson
Scott Keller
Dane Mahern
Angela Mansfield
Mary Moriarty Adams
Mike Speedy
Ryan Vaughn

ABSENT MEMBERS

Ginny Cain

AGENDA

PROPOSAL NO. 436, 2007 - approves an appropriation of \$848,530 in the 2007 Budget of the Department of Public Works (Transportation General Fund) to restore Character 01 funds for salaries and wages expended by the Department of Public Works during the 2007 snow emergency, financed by reimbursements from the Federal Emergency Management Agency
"Do Pass" Vote 8-0

PROPOSAL NO. 437, 2007 - appropriates \$1,800,000 in the 2007 Budget of the Department of Public Works (Consolidated County Fund) to fund the costs of operating and maintaining city and county trucks, cars, fire apparatus, and other rolling stock, financed by chargeback revenues to be received from the various city and county governmental customers of the Fleet Services Division of DPW
"Do Pass" Vote 8-0

PROPOSAL NO. 404, 2007 - establishes a 20-mile-per-hour speed limit in the Copper Grove subdivision (District 25)
"Do Pass as Amended" Vote 8-0

PROPOSAL NO. 438, 2007 - authorizes a multi-way stop at the intersection of 55th Street and Winthrop Avenue (District 3)
"Do Pass" Vote 8-0

PROPOSAL NO. 439, 2007 - authorizes a multi-way stop at the intersection of Bertha Street and Fleming Street (District 14)

“Do Pass” Vote 8-0

PROPOSAL NO. 440, 2007 - authorizes No Parking Anytime restrictions on the north side of 9th Street from Paca Street to California Street (District 15)

“Do Pass” Vote 8-0

PROPOSAL NO. 441, 2007 - authorizes a change in parking restrictions around the Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library (District 15)

“Do Pass” Vote 8-0

PROPOSAL NO. 442, 2007 - authorizes a multi-way stop at the intersection of 14th Street and Mitchner Avenue (District 17)

“Do Pass” Vote 8-0

PROPOSAL NO. 443, 2007 - authorizes intersection controls for the Deer Run Subdivision, Sections 1 and 2 (District 18)

“Do Pass” Vote 7-0

PROPOSAL NO. 444, 2007 - authorizes a multi-way stop at the intersection of Barth Avenue and Palmer Street (District 19)

“Do Pass” Vote 7-0

PROPOSAL NO. 445, 2007 - authorizes a multi-way stop at the intersection of Legrande Avenue and Villa Avenue (District 20)

“Do Pass” Vote 7-0

PROPOSAL NO. 446, 2007 - removes No Parking Anytime restrictions in The Springs of Hamptons subdivision (District 21)

“Do Pass” Vote 7-0

PROPOSAL NO. 447, 2007 - authorizes intersection controls for the Meridian Place Subdivision (District 23)

“Do Pass” Vote 7-0

PROPOSAL NO. 448, 2007 - authorizes speed limits for the McFarland Farms Subdivision (District 24)

“Do Pass” Vote 7-0

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

The Public Works Committee of the City-County Council met on Thursday, October 25, 2007. Chair Lonnell Conley called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. with the following members present: André Carson, Scott Keller, Dane Mahern, Angela Mansfield, Mary Moriarty Adams, Mike Speedy, and Ryan Vaughn. Absent was Ginny Cain. Councillor Lincoln Plowman was also in attendance.

PROPOSAL NO. 436, 2007 - approves an appropriation of \$848,530 in the 2007 Budget of the Department of Public Works (Transportation General Fund) to restore Character 01 funds for salaries and wages expended by the Department of Public Works during the 2007 snow emergency, financed by reimbursements from the Federal Emergency Management Agency

Jimmy White, Operations Finance Manager, Department of Public Works (DPW), said during February, 2007, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) made financial assistance available for Indiana counties that experienced excessive related costs of snow and ice removal. For the city of Indianapolis, the amount was \$848,530. He said that the DPW Operations Division seeks to amend the 2007 budget by appropriating those funds, which will allow restoration of the Personal Services budget and will allow the department to continue the normal maintenance of operations and provide preparation for unanticipated emergency responses, including work-related emergencies for the current 2007 season.

Councillor Speedy asked if the City is being reimbursed for excessive snow removal due to weather and if Mr. White is simply asking the Committee to access the funds. Mr. White answered in the affirmative.

Councillor Speedy moved, seconded by Councillor Moriarty Adams, to forward Proposal No. 436, 2007 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 8-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 437, 2007 - appropriates \$1,800,000 in the 2007 Budget of the Department of Public Works (Consolidated County Fund) to fund the costs of operating and maintaining city and county trucks, cars, fire apparatus, and other rolling stock, financed by chargeback revenues to be received from the various city and county governmental customers of the Fleet Services Division of DPW

Chair Conley asked if this money is already appropriated through the budget. Pat Carroll, Deputy Director of Maintenance Services, DPW, answered that this money is being requested to be charged back. It comes through the agencies to Fleet Services as additional Character 02 and Character 03 money for Fleet Services.

Mr. Carroll introduced Ron Stinson, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and Procurement Manager, Fleet Services, and stated that Mr. Stinson will give the details of the proposal. Mr. Carroll stated that he will later summarize the request with information on the state of the Fleet and some of the issues requiring additional Character 02 and Character 03 money.

Mr. Stinson said that Fleet Services is requesting an increase in their appropriation of Character 02 from the Consolidated Fund in the amount of \$1 million and an additional appropriation in Character 03 for \$800,000 to cover repair-related expenses. He said that the Character 03 appropriation includes \$400,000, which will be used to reimburse the unbudgeted expenditure to fund the new Fuel Hedge Reserve program. The Fuel Hedge Reserve program was a joint effort between the Bond Bank and the Controller's Office to help protect the budget from unforeseen escalating fuel prices. Mr. Stinson said that the need in Characters 02 and 03 include appropriations resulting from under-budgeting for Fiscal Year 2007 in calculating the anticipated needs associated with the additional increased fleet utilization in association with the mergers, as well as the accelerated costs to repair the current aging fleet. The associated additional costs to repair the increased fleet and additional needs in supporting the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) and Public Safety, along with an aging fleet, exceeded the department's expectations. Mr. Stinson said that the Character 02 appropriation of \$1 million is to fund a projected shortage for repair parts. He said that the 2007 Character 02 budget for vehicle parts was \$3.4 million, and expenditures through September, 2007 totaled \$3.2 million. Mr. Stinson said that as of the end of September, 2007, the Character 03 spending has increased by \$875,000 over the same period of 2006. He said that any unspent budget appropriations will be returned to the Consolidated County Fund at the end of the fiscal year.

Mr. Carroll reiterated that Fleet Services under-budgeted, as approximately 700 new vehicles were added to Fleet Services and the fleet is aging. DPW's overall cost of maintenance, parts, supplies, and labor has gone up a little over \$1 million, and approximately \$2,400 more per vehicle is being spent. He said that some of that is contributed to the snow removal in February, 2007, more work being done in neighborhoods, and the packer fleet continuing to age. Mr. Carroll stated that the Department of Metropolitan Development increased their fleet by 24 vehicles and decreased maintenance costs by \$12,000, but that is because they have newer, smaller vehicles, unlike DPW. He said that another example includes IMPD's 2007 Crown Victoria compared with their 1999 Crown Victoria, which had maintenance costs of 20 cents per mile to maintain in 1999 and only three cents per mile to maintain in 2007. Similarly the equipment of the Parks Department continues to age, especially lawn and landscaping equipment, resulting in approximately \$300 more for maintaining those vehicles. Mr. Carroll said IMPD's vehicle costs increased about \$250 overall, but the numbers are not available for the Sheriff's Office. However, the average costs to maintain the IMPD and Sheriff vehicles are around \$1,500 per year. He said that it is anticipated that Character 01 expenses will be covered for the remainder of 2007, due to the money that is going to be received from FEMA.

Chair Conley asked if not having the Sheriff numbers is keeping Fleet Services from balancing. Mr. Carroll answered in the negative, and stated that they have a very good count on their 2007 repairs.

Councillor Vaughn asked if the FEMA money only goes toward Personal Services, and if there are no reimbursements available for repairs. Mr. Williams answered that the FEMA money is planned to be used only for Personal Services. Councillor Vaughn asked if that is the decision of DPW or if it is federally regulated. Mr. Williams answered that it was a decision of DPW. Councillor Vaughn asked from where the approximate 700 new vehicles in Fleet Services came. Mr. Carroll answered that Fleet Services took on the responsibility of the Sheriff's vehicles when

IMPD was formed, and more county vehicles are being maintained by Fleet Services than last year. He added that Fleet Services has also taken over fleet from Washington Township and Warren Township Fire Departments due to the mergers. Mr. Carroll stated that Indianapolis Fire Department's (IFD) maintenance costs have increased by \$1.4 million dollars over the last year as a result of aging fleet. Councillor Vaughn asked if the money budgeted for repairs by Warren and Washington Township Fire Departments were correspondingly taken over through the mergers. Jeff Seidenstein, Budget Manager, Controller's Office, answered in the affirmative, and stated that their budgeted amounts were transferred over to the City. He said that the appropriations were put into the Fire Department's budget to pay the chargebacks to Fleet Services, but the Fleet Services budget was not adjusted at the same time as the Fire Department's budget. Therefore, Fleet Services had to incur the expense up front, and that is what they are now trying to get replenished. Councillor Vaughn asked if expenses are first paid by Fleet Services and payments are then later expected through the departments. Mr. Seidenstein answered in the affirmative.

Councillor Keller asked if the operating costs include fuel. Mr. Carroll answered in the negative, and stated that fuel costs are still being examined for the rest of the year. Councillor Keller asked how it looks with the hedge. Bob Clifford, City Controller, stated that earlier this year, about 50% of the volume was purchased at collar, which means that if the City pays above a specific amount the difference is paid to the City, but if the City pays below a different specified amount, then the City has to pay. He said that there were two months in which the City was paid approximately \$15,000 because the cost was above the collar price of about \$60,000. Mr. Clifford said that the City has not yet entered into the hedge for 2008, and have not hedged the remainder of 2007's fuel purchases. Mr. Clifford said that the prices for fuel have remained very high and the City's consultant feels that there will be a sell-out toward the end of the year, and the City is looking to buy a hedge at that point. The future prices going into 2008 are \$2.57 per gallon, and \$2.48 for 2009. He stated that if the City pays an average of \$2.50 for the remainder of 2007, the average for the entire year would be \$2.30. Mr. Clifford said that the City will begin entering into hedges if the prices start to drop. He said that the prices are currently not very attractive to lock in a hedge, and they are hoping to come back to the Council with an actual hedge price.

Councillor Speedy asked if there is any known particular factor as to why maintenance costs increased, such as health insurance, materials, or labor. Mr. Carroll answered that it is a combination of labor, the cost of parts that have considerably increased, and contract services. However, the most contributing factor is maintaining fleet that is seven to ten years or older, as they cost more to repair and maintain.

Councillor Moriarty Adams moved, seconded by Councillor Speedy, to forward Proposal No. 437, 2007 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 8-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 404, 2007 - establishes a 20-mile-per-hour speed limit in the Copper Grove subdivision (District 25)

Councillor Plowman said that he is here representing some of his constituents in the Copper Grove subdivision. Initially, he was requesting that the speed limit be reduced to 20 miles per hour, but he discovered that there may be an issue with that amount without an engineering study being completed. He said that he is now requesting that the proposal be changed to reflect a decreased limit of 25 miles per hour, without the need for an engineering study. Additionally, the proposal includes Five Points Road, and he would like to have that removed because it was erroneously included. Councillor Plowman said that his request to decrease the speed limit is in an effort to ensure safety for the subdivision occupants.

Chair Conley asked Nathan Sheets, Senior Project Manager, DPW, if an engineering study needs to be completed for this proposal. Mr. Sheets answered that this proposal is to drop the current 30-mile-per-hour residential speed limit to 25, and this proposal will only affect the residents and visitors to the subdivision. Chair Conley asked if the proposal can be left at 25 miles per hour. Mr. Sheets answered that he knows that reductions have been done in the past, but he is not sure if the limit was 20 or 25. Councillor Speedy answered that the limit was dropped to 25 miles per hour in Councillor Brown's district, but there have been some decreased to 20 in the past. Chair Conley said that he is not sure if those particular cases decreased from 30 to 20 or from 25 to 20. Mr. Sheets answered that 30 miles per hour is the typical residential limits. Councillor Plowman stated that there have been two ordinances passed in his district that reduced the speed limit from 30 to 20, but that was in 2005.

Mickey Rogers, Council Liaison, DPW, said that there were a couple of circumstances in which Councillors have proposed reductions from 30 to 20 within residential subdivisions. He stated that there is an Indiana Code that discusses the ability to reduce the limit from 30 to 25 without a supporting engineering study, however the Code requires a supporting engineering study to reduce the limit from 30 to 20. Mr. Rogers said that DPW will take a neutral position on reducing the limit to 25, but he would revert back to the Statute in requiring an engineering study in order to reduce it to 20.

Councillor Plowman asked the Committee to amend Proposal No. 404, 2007, by changing the speed limit to 25 miles per hour and removing the words "Five Points Road."

Councillor Speedy moved, seconded by Councillor Moriarty Adams, to amend Proposal No. 404, 2007, as stated by Councillor Plowman. The motion carried by a vote of 8-0.

Councillor Moriarty Adams moved, seconded by Councillor Speedy, to forward Proposal No. 404, 2007 to the full Council with a "Do Pass as Amended" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 8-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 438, 2007 - authorizes a multi-way stop at the intersection of 55th Street and Winthrop Avenue (District 3)

PROPOSAL NO. 439, 2007 - authorizes a multi-way stop at the intersection of Bertha Street and Fleming Street (District 14)

PROPOSAL NO. 440, 2007 - authorizes No Parking Anytime restrictions on the north side of 9th Street from Paca Street to California Street (District 15)

PROPOSAL NO. 441, 2007 - authorizes a change in parking restrictions around the Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library (District 15)

Jim Bradford, citizen, said that he is in support of Proposal No. 438, 2007, and he has a signed petition for the proposal. He said that working to get the multi-way stop at 55th Street and Winthrop was one of the last things that he worked on while on the Council and he thanked Kumar Menon, Mickey Rogers, and Ryan Vaughn for helping him get it accomplished.

Councillor Vaughn moved, seconded by Councillor Mansfield, to forward Proposal Nos. 438, 439, 440, and 441, 2007 to the full Council with “Do Pass” recommendations. The motion carried by a vote of 8-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 442, 2007 - authorizes a multi-way stop at the intersection of 14th Street and Mitchner Avenue (District 17)

Councillor Moriarty Adams said that this proposal is due to requests from Jeff Nineveh, citizen, and the constituents that live on Mitchner Avenue, as there are a lot of children in the area and there have been excessive speeds on the street. Mr. Nineveh said that Mitchner Avenue is midway between and parallel to Shadeland and Franklin Avenues and connects 10th and 16th Streets. Because of its location, it is a major cut-through between 10th and 16th Streets, and the nearest stop-sign from the intersection is approximately 1,000 feet away. Mr. Nineveh said that the neighborhood is primarily senior citizens, but is attracting younger families as the aging ones move out. He said that there are no sidewalks in the neighborhood, leaving children no choice but to play in the street.

Chair Conley asked Mr. Sheets if there are any restrictions. Mr. Sheets answered in the negative, and stated that DPW is in support of this proposal.

Councillor Speedy asked if a standard warrant analysis was performed. Mr. Sheets answered that this is a local intersection that would not technically meet the warrant for a multi-way stop, but given the lack of sidewalks, it is considered a precautionary safety measure.

Councillor Moriarty Adams moved, seconded by Councillor Mansfield, to forward Proposal No. 442, 2007 to the full Council with a “Do Pass” recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 8-0.

[Clerk’s note: Councillor Moriarty Adams left the room at this time.]

Chair Conley asked for consent to hear Proposal Nos. 443, 444, 445, 446, and 447, 2007 together. Consent was given.

PROPOSAL NO. 443, 2007 - authorizes intersection controls for the Deer Run Subdivision, Sections 1 and 2 (District 18)

PROPOSAL NO. 444, 2007 - authorizes a multi-way stop at the intersection of Barth Avenue and Palmer Street (District 19)

PROPOSAL NO. 445, 2007 - authorizes a multi-way stop at the intersection of Legrande Avenue and Villa Avenue (District 20)

PROPOSAL NO. 446, 2007 - removes No Parking Anytime restrictions in The Springs of Hamptons subdivision (District 21)

PROPOSAL NO. 447, 2007 - authorizes intersection controls for the Meridian Place Subdivision (District 23)

Mr. Sheets said that he would be happy to answer any questions regarding Proposal Nos. 443, 444, 445, 446, and 447, 2007.

Councillor Mansfield moved, seconded by Councillor Carson, to forward Proposal Nos. 443, 444, 445, 446, and 447, 2007 to the full Council with “Do Pass” recommendations. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 448, 2007 - authorizes speed limits for the McFarland Farms Subdivision (District 24)

Councillor Speedy thanked DPW for the items that they have investigated, reviewed, and inspected with respect to McFarland Farms Subdivision. The constituents appreciate all that has been done to help them with this proposal. Councillor Speedy said that this is a very large community, with much housing diversity within the development. He said that he has learned in times past that speed limit reductions can be disfavored, and one of the reasons is that lowered speed limits can create a false sense of security, which in turn can lead to safety issues because of lack of enforcement. However, he believes that this case is different because there is a large homeowners’ association that has the means to hire off-duty police officers and has done so in the past, to enforce some of their current regulations. Therefore, if the proposal is passed, the association will take it upon themselves to make the necessary steps in seeing that the limit is enforced, as with their other regulations. Councillor Speedy said that this makes the difference.

Bobbie Durham, President of the McFarland Farms Subdivision Homeowner’s Association, said that they appreciate Councillor Speedy’s efforts and the Council and DPW hearing their concerns. She said that McFarland Farms is a large subdivision with 422 homes and many kids that play in the neighborhood, as there is a community pool, a playground and a community center. She said that they have struggled for a long time to try to get people to slow down in their neighborhood, as people are doing 40 and 50 miles per hour, as there are some long stretches of road. The division goes from Southport Road to Stop 11. She said that they began hiring off-duty police officers a couple of years ago to help them maintain the 30 mile-per-hour limit, and reducing it to 25 would be great. She said that the board constantly addresses this problem in their monthly meetings.

Chair Conley asked Councillor Speedy what the authorized speed limit is for the neighborhood. Councillor Speedy answered that it is 25 miles per hour, and is stated in the ordinance but was not stated in the digest.

Councillor Mansfield moved, seconded by Councillor Carson, to forward Proposal No. 448, 2007 to the full Council with a “Do Pass” recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Conclusion

With no further business pending, and upon motion duly made, the Public Works Committee of the City-County Council was adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lonnell Conley, Chair

LC/nsm